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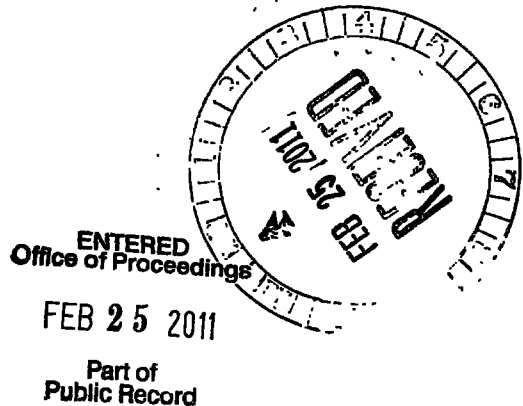
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February 24, 2011

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2)
Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd.
--Abandonment Exemption--
In Aroostook County, Maine

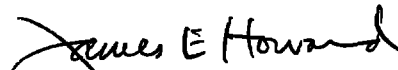


Dear Ms. Brown:

I represent Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. ("MMA"). MMA plans to file a Petition for Exemption, relating to the proposed abandonment of approximately .4 miles of line located in Van Buren, Maine, on or about March 22, 2011. Enclosed for filing in connection with the above-referenced abandonment are the original and 10 copies of the Combined Environmental and Historic Report (the "Report"), which includes a certificate showing parties on which the Report is being served and compliance with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 1105. In addition to the parties appearing on the service list, we are also serving the Report on the Department of Transportation of the State of Maine.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me. Thank you very much for your attention to this request.

Very truly yours,


James E. Howard

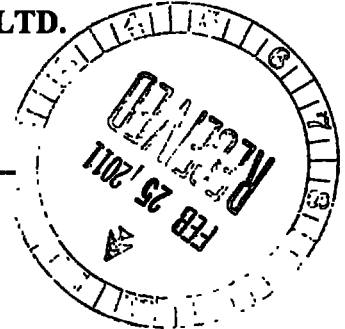
Enclosures

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2)

**MONTREAL, MAINE & ATLANTIC RAILWAY, LTD.
– ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION –
IN AROOSTOOK COUNTY, ME**

Combined Environmental and Historic Report



Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. ("MMA") submits this Combined Environmental and Historic Report pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 1105.7(e) and 49 C.F.R. 1105.8(d), respectively, for an abandonment exemption for approximately .4 miles of rail line in Van Buren, Maine between milepost V 23.72 at Bridge Street and milepost V 24.12 at Main Street (the "Line"), which is part of the Van Buren Subdivision in Aroostook County, Maine.

MMA anticipates that it will file a Petition for Exemption to abandon the Line on or after March 22, 2011.

**ENTERED
Office of Proceedings**

FEB 25 2011

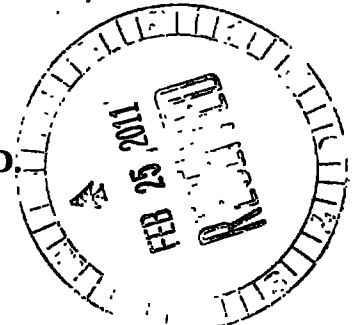
**Part of
Public Record**

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

(49 C.F.R. 1105.7(e))

STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2)

MONTREAL, MAINE & ATLANTIC RAILWAY, LTD.
– ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION –
IN AROOSTOOK COUNTY, ME



(1) Proposed action and alternatives. Describe the proposed action, including commodities transported, the planned disposition (if any) of any rail line and other structures that may be involved, and any possible changes in current operations or maintenance practices. Also describe any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Include a readable, detailed map and drawings clearly delineating the project.

MMA proposes to abandon approximately .4 miles of the Van Buren Subdivision in Van Buren, Maine. The Line extends from milepost V 23.72 at Bridge Street to milepost V 24.12 at Main Street.

Upon receipt of abandonment authority, MMA intends to sell the Line to the United States Government Services Administration ("GSA"), which intends to use the property underlying the Line and certain adjacent property of MMA, which is located at the end of the international highway bridge over the St. John River between Van Buren and St. Leonard, New Brunswick, as part of the site for construction of a new U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility ("USCBP facility"). GSA will acquire the Line and all MMA property located on the Line, including rail, ties and other track material. Consequently, MMA does not plan to remove or salvage any track or other materials or continue to maintain the Line.

Currently, MMA operates a reload center located adjacent to the Line (southeast of Bridge St. near milepost V 23.72) where lumber from Canada is transferred from truck to rail for transportation by rail to destinations in the U.S. In connection with the construction of a USCBP

facility, the reload center would be relocated, at the expense of GSA, to a new location along the Van Buren Subdivision approximately .7 miles from the current location. When the reload center is relocated, all rail operations on the Line will end.

The only alternative to abandonment would be to continue current operations on the Line, which would render construction of the USCBP facility impossible.

A map of the Line and area adjacent to the proposed abandonment is attached hereto as Exhibit A. In connection with its plan to construct the USCBP facility, GSA prepared an Environmental Assessment, which was dated as of January, 2010, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. To the extent that the Line and the adjoining MMA property are scheduled to become part of the new facility, the GSA Environmental Assessment contains relevant information for purposes of this Environmental Report and the accompanying Historic Report.

(2) Transportation System. Describe the effects of the proposed action on regional or local transportation systems and patterns. Estimate the amount of traffic (passenger or freight) that will be diverted to other transportation systems or modes as a result of the proposed action.

As a result of the proposed abandonment and related relocation of the reload center, truck traffic will be diverted to a new route along Main Street (US Route 1) in Van Buren, Maine. The current reload center can be accessed from Bridge Street immediately after crossing the St. Leonard-Van Buren Bridge, while trucks to and from the new reload center will use Main Street for approximately .7 miles between the bridge and the new reload facility.. A map of the current and proposed routes is attached as Exhibit B. Although the number of trucks traveling to the new reload center will not increase overall, there will be an increase in truck traffic along Main Street of approximately 8 trucks per day (Monday through Friday) due to the new routing after the abandonment and relocation of the reload facility.

(3) Land use. (i) Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or a review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies, state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe any inconsistencies. (ii) Based on consultation with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, state the effect of the proposed action on any prime agricultural land. (iii) If the action affects land or water uses within a designated coastal zone, include the coastal zone information required by Sec. 1105.9. (iv) If the proposed action is an abandonment, state whether or not the right-of-way is suitable for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. 10906 and explain why.

(i) According to the Maine State Planning Office, the proposed abandonment is consistent with existing land use plans. By letter dated November 17, 2010, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit C, in response to a letter dated November 7, 2010 from MMA (attached as Exhibit D), the Maine State Planning Office has advised MMA that the town of Van Buren has a comprehensive land use plan that is consistent with state legislation. The State Planning Office has requested the town of Van Buren to provide MMA with information directly, but there has been no written response received from the town. Based upon communications with GSA, however, MMA believes that the town is fully supportive of the abandonment of the Line and the relocation of the trans-loading facility. A copy of this Report is being supplied to the appropriate local and state agencies for their information and further comment.

(ii) By letter dated November 7, 2010, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit E, MMA asked the Natural Resources Conservation Service to verify that the proposed abandonment will have no detrimental effect on Prime Farmland. As of this time, the Natural Resources Conservation Service has not responded. A copy of this Report is being supplied to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for its information and further comment.

(iii) The Line does not pass through a designated coastal zone.

(iv) The Line, when taken together with other property being acquired by GSA in Van Buren for the USBPC facility, is suitable for a public use as a land port of entry facility. The Line does

not appear to be suitable for any other public use given the short length of the Line and the fact that it terminates at milepost 24.12.

(4) Energy. (i) Describe the effect of the proposed action on transportation of energy resources. (ii) Describe the effect of the proposed action on recyclable commodities. (iii) State whether the proposed action will result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency and explain why. (iv) If the proposed action will cause diversions from rail to motor carriage of more than: (A) 1,000 rail carloads a year; or (B) An average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year for any part of the affected line, quantify the resulting net change in energy consumption and show the data and methodology used to arrive at the figure given.

(i) The proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of energy resources.

(ii) The proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of recyclable commodities.

(iii) The proposed abandonment is not expected to result in any increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency. As a result of the abandonment and the relocation of MMA's transload facility, trucks going to the reload facility will travel approximately .7 miles farther than they travel today, and trains leaving the reload facility will travel approximately .7 miles less than they travel today.

(iv) The proposed abandonment will not cause diversions from rail to truck. In 2010, approximately 2000 trucks loaded with lumber arrived at the current transload facility, and approximately 675 rail cars loaded with lumber left the facility. Assuming that business levels remain the same after the abandonment, an additional 2000 trucks per year, or approximately 8 trucks per day, assuming a five-day work week, will move approximately .7 miles over Main Street in Van Buren, and trains leaving the new reload facility would likewise travel approximately .7 miles less. In these circumstances, MMA believes that any net change in energy consumption would be negligible.

(5) Air. (i) If the proposed action will result in either: (A) An increase in rail traffic of at least 100 percent (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least eight trains

a day on any segment of rail line affected by the proposal, or (B) An increase in rail yard activity of at least 100 percent (measured by carload activity), or (C) An average increase in truck traffic of more than 10 percent of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on any affected road segment, quantify the anticipated effect on air emissions. For a proposal under 49 U.S.C. 10901 (or 10505) to construct a new line or reinstitute service over a previously abandoned line, only the eight train a day provision in subsection (5)(i)(A) will apply. (ii) If the proposed action affects a class I or nonattainment area under [[Page 108]] the Clean Air Act, and will result in either: (A) An increase in rail traffic of at least 50 percent (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least three trains a day on any segment of rail line, (B) An increase in rail yard activity of at least 20 percent (measured by carload activity), or (C) An average increase in truck traffic of more than 10 percent of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on a given road segment, then state whether any expected increased emissions are within the parameters established by the State Implementation Plan. However, for a rail construction under 49 U.S.C. 10901 (or 49 U.S.C. 10505), or a case involving the reinstitution of service over a previously abandoned line, only the three train a day threshold in this item shall apply. (iii) If transportation of ozone depleting materials (such as nitrogen oxide and freon) is contemplated, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and spills; contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of ozone depleting materials in the event of a collision or derailment.

(i) The proposed abandonment is not expected to result in increases exceeding the specified thresholds.

(ii) The Line is not located in a nonattainment area. Furthermore, the proposed abandonment is not expected to result in increases exceeding the specified thresholds.

(iii) The proposed abandonment will not affect the transportation of ozone depleting materials.

(6) Noise. If any of the thresholds identified in item (5)(i) of this section are surpassed, state whether the proposed action will cause: (i) An incremental increase in noise levels of three decibels Ldn or more; or (ii) An increase to a noise level of 65 decibels Ldn or greater. If so, identify sensitive receptors (e.g., schools, libraries, hospitals, residences, retirement communities, and nursing homes) in the project area, and quantify the noise increase for these receptors if the thresholds are surpassed.

Not applicable.

(7) Safety. (i) Describe any effects of the proposed action on public health and safety (including vehicle delay time at railroad grade crossings). (ii) If hazardous materials are expected to be transported, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service;

whether chemicals are being transported that, if mixed, could react to form more hazardous compounds; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and hazardous spills; the contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of hazardous materials. (iii) If there are any known hazardous waste sites or sites where there have been known hazardous materials spills on the right-of-way, identify the location of those sites and the types of hazardous materials involved.

(i) The proposed abandonment will have no detrimental effects on public health and safety.

(ii) The proposed abandonment will not affect the transportation of hazardous materials.

(iii) There are no known hazardous material waste sites or sites where known hazardous material spills have occurred on or along the Line.

(8) Biological resources. (i) Based on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat, and if so, describe the effects. (ii) State whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects.

(i) According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which responded by letter dated November 29, 2010, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit F, to a letter from MMA dated November 7, 2010 (attached as Exhibit G), the proposed abandonment is within the "range" of the Canada lynx, but is not within the "designated critical habitat" of the Canada lynx. As suggested by the Fish and Wildlife Service in its letter, MMA, by letters dated February 21, 2011, which are attached as Exhibits H and I, has solicited comments from the Maine Natural Areas Program and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. A copy of this Report is being supplied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for its information and further comment.

(ii) MMA does not believe that any wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be adversely affected by the proposed abandonment. By letter dated November 7, 2010, MMA notified the National Parks Service of the proposed abandonment and requested

assistance in identifying any potential effects on wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests. See Exhibit J. To date, no response to this request has been received. A copy of this Report is being supplied to the National Park Service for its information and comment.

(9) Water. (i) Based on consultation with State water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies. (ii) Based on consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, state whether permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) are required for the proposed action and whether any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected. Describe the effects. (iii) State whether permits under section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) are required for the proposed action.

(i) The proposed abandonment, in MMA's view, will be consistent with applicable water quality standards. By letters dated November 7, 2010, which are attached as Exhibits K and L, MMA contacted the Maine Department of Environmental Protection ("Maine DEP") and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("US EPA") concerning this matter requesting assistance in determining whether the proposed abandonment is consistent with applicable Federal, State, or local water quality standards. US EPA has advised MMA by letter dated December 8, 2010, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit M, that these issues are to be addressed by Maine DEP. As of this time, Maine DEP has not responded. A copy of this Report is being supplied to the US EPA and Maine DEP for their information and comment.

(ii) MMA believes that no designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be adversely affected by the proposed abandonment. MMA contacted the Department of the Army Corps of Engineers concerning these matters by letter dated November 7, 2010. See Exhibit N. To date, no response has been received from the Army Corps of Engineers. A copy of this Report is being supplied to the Army Corps of Engineers for its information and comment.

(iii) MMA believes the proposed abandonment will not require the issuance of any permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. MMA contacted the US EPA concerning this matter

and requested assistance in identifying any potential effects on applicable water quality standards and determining whether the proposed abandonment is consistent with applicable Federal, State, or local water quality standards. As described above, US EPA has deferred to Maine DEP on these issues. A copy of this Report is being supplied to the US EPA for its information and comment.

HISTORIC REPORT

(49 C.F.R. 1105.8(d))

STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2)

MONTREAL, MAINE & ATLANTIC RAILWAY, LTD. – ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION – IN AROOSTOOK COUNTY, ME

(1) A U.S.G.S. topographic map (or an alternate map drawn to scale and sufficiently detailed to show buildings and other structures in the vicinity of the proposed action) showing the location of the proposed action, and the locations and approximate dimensions of railroad structures that are 50 years old or older and are part of the proposed action

A map of the Line is attached hereto as Exhibit A. There are no structures that are 50 years or older on the Line.

(2) A written description of the right-of-way (including approximate widths, to the extent known), and the topography and urban and/or rural characteristics of the surrounding area

The Line is situated near the town center of Van Buren, Maine along the eastern edge of the town that borders the Saint John River. Van Buren is a small town (population approximately 2,631 as of the 2000 Census) located across the river from Saint-Leonard, New Brunswick, Canada. The immediate area adjacent to the Line is flat with a mix of residential and commercial uses. The right-of-way is generally 66 feet in width with some minor variations.

(3) Good quality photographs (actual photographic prints, not photocopies) of railroad structures on the property that are 50 years old or older and of the immediately surrounding area

There are no buildings or railroad structures that are 50 years or older on the Line and no readily available photographs of the Line.

(4) The date(s) of construction of the structure(s), and the date(s) and extent of any major alterations, to the extent such information is known

There are no structures on the Line.

(5) A brief narrative history of carrier operations in the area, and an explanation of what, if any, changes are contemplated as a result of the proposed action

The Van Buren Subdivision was formerly part of a rail line, which was owned and operated by Bangor & Aroostook Railroad from the early 1900s, between Madawaska, Maine, through Van Buren and extending to Caribou, Maine and points south. In the 1980s, the portion of the line between milepost 24.1 in Van Buren and Caribou was abandoned. The Line, together with substantially all of the rail lines of Bangor & Aroostook, were sold to MMA in 2003.

(6) A brief summary of documents in the carrier's possession, such as engineering drawings, that might be useful in documenting a structure that is found to be historic

As indicated above, there are no structures on the Line.

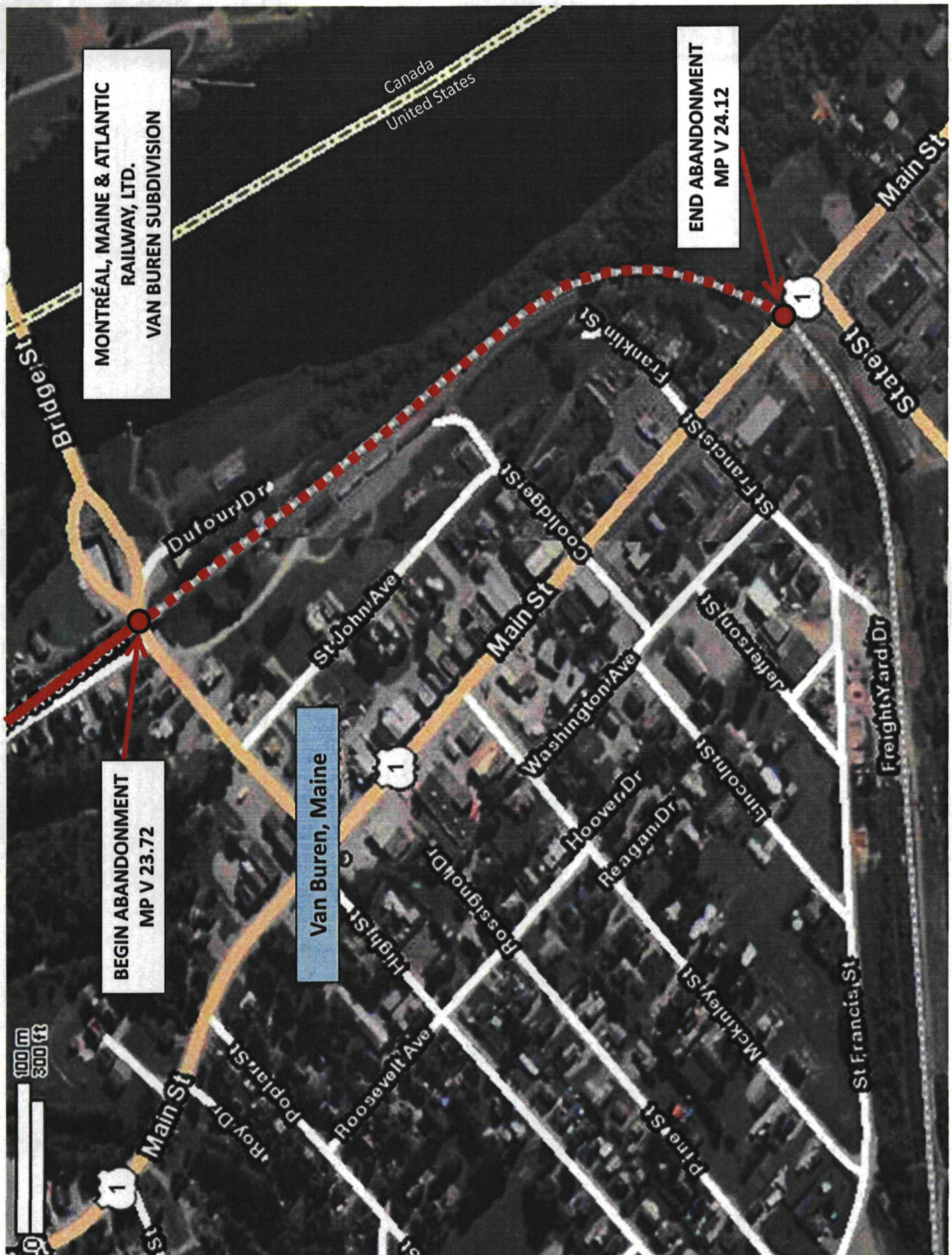
(7) An opinion (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) as to whether the site and/or structures meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR 60.4), and whether there is a likelihood of archeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties in the project area, and the basis for these opinions (including any consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office, local historical societies or universities)

There are no structures or bridges located on the Line. MMA believes that no culturally significant locations, archaeological sites or unique landforms will be affected by the abandonment. By letter dated November 7, 2010, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit O, MMA has advised the Maine Historic Preservation Commission ("MHPC") of the proposed action and has requested comment. MHPC has indicated in a letter dated December 6, 2010, that it believes that an architectural survey should be performed in connection with the abandonment. See Exhibit P.

(8) A description (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) of any known prior subsurface ground disturbance or fill, environmental conditions (naturally occurring or manmade) that might affect the archeological recovery of resources (such as swampy conditions or the presence of toxic wastes), and the surrounding terrain

MMA is not in possession of any relevant information about any conditions on or adjacent to the Line that might affect the archaeological recovery of resources.

Dated: February 23, 2011

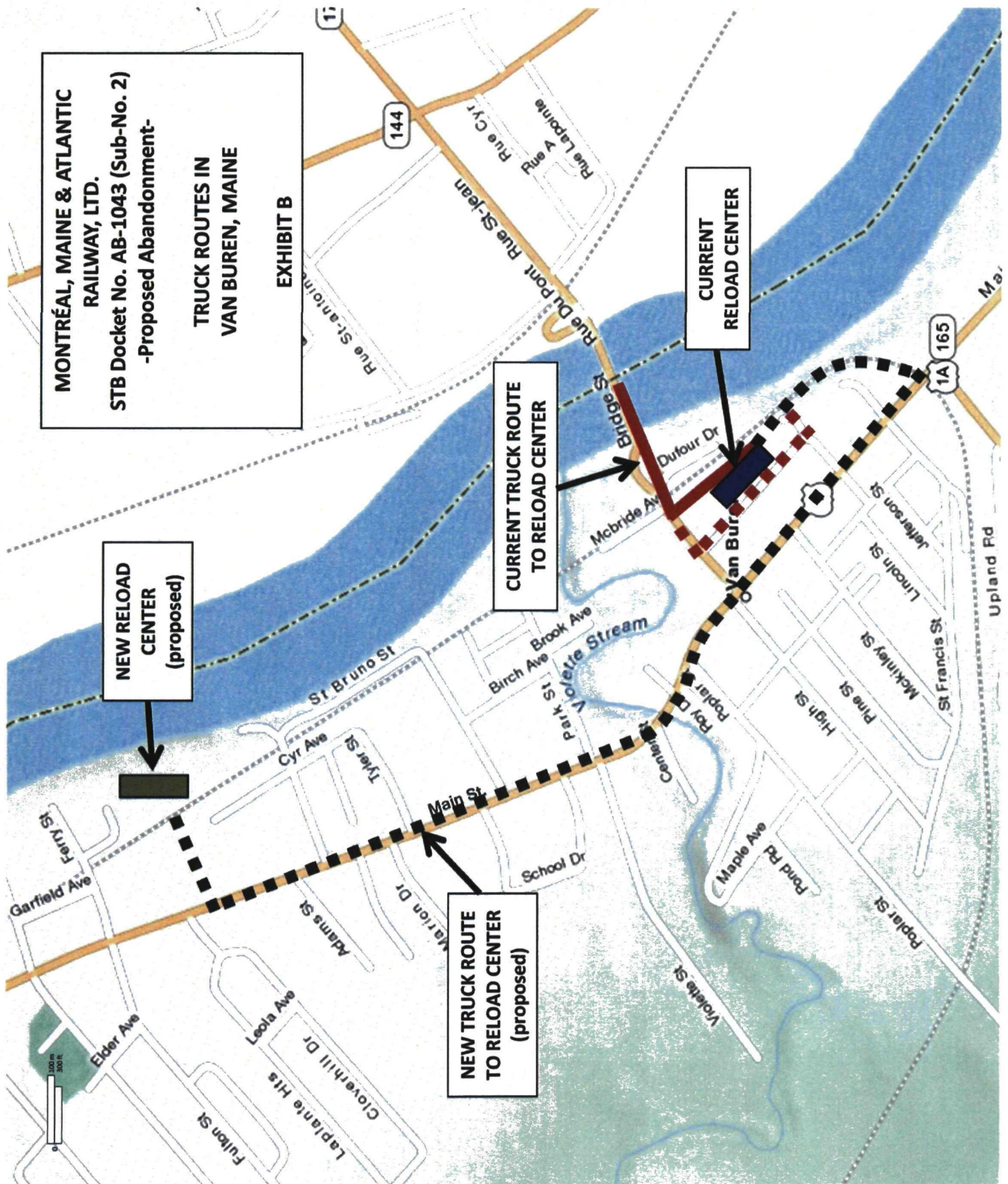


MONTRÉAL, MAINE & ATLANTIC
RAILWAY, LTD.

STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2)
-Proposed Abandonment-

TRUCK ROUTES IN
VAN BUREN, MAINE

EXHIBIT B



NEW RELOAD
CENTER
(proposed)

CURRENT TRUCK ROUTE
TO RELOAD CENTER

CURRENT
RELOAD CENTER

NEW TRUCK ROUTE
TO RELOAD CENTER
(proposed)



Maine State Planning Office
Executive Department

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
Governor

TIM GLIDDEN
Acting Director

November 17, 2010

James E. Howard, Esq.
1 Thompson Square, Suite 201
Charlestown, MA, 02129

Dear Mr. Howard,

We are in receipt of your letter dated, November 7, 2010 requesting State Planning Office determination of consistency between actions planned by the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. ("MMA") and existing land use plans in the county. Maine does not have county wide or regional land use plans outside of the unorganized territory of the state. Van Buren does not fall in the unorganized territory therefore there are no county or regional plans in effect.

Land use plans and implementing ordinances are developed at the municipal level. Van Buren currently has an existing comprehensive plan, adopted in 1998, and town-wide zoning adopted in 1988. The State Planning Office did find Van Buren's comprehensive plan consistent with the Growth Management Act in 1997.

Based on 49 CFR 1105.7:

"Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or a review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies, state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans."

This Office encourages you to contact the town of Van Buren for an evaluation of whether or not the proposed action is consistent with the town's comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance. We have included contact information for the Van Buren town manager and cc'ed him on this letter.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (207) 624-6200 or tim.glidden@maine.gov.

Sincerely,

Tim Glidden, Acting Director
State Planning Office

Cc: Thomas R. Cannon
51 Main Street, Suite 101
Van Buren, ME 04785
(207) 868-2886
vbmanager@pwless.net

James E. Howard

Attorney at Law

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Charlestown, MA 02129
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jim@jehowardlaw.com

November 7, 2010

Maine State Planning Office
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2X)
Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd.--
Abandonment Exemption--In Aroostook County, Maine

Dear Sir/Madam:

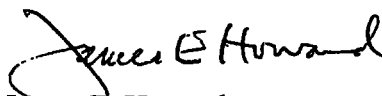
I represent Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. ("MMA"). MMA plans to file a Petition for Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") on or about December 8, 2010 requesting authority to abandon approximately .4 miles of rail line in Van Buren, Maine between milepost V 23.72 (Bridge Street) and milepost V 24.12 (Main Street), which is part of the Van Buren Subdivision (the "Line"). A map showing the Line in relation to other rail lines of MMA is enclosed.

After the STB authorizes the abandonment of the Line, MMA intends to sell the Line to the Government Services Administration ("GSA"), which intends to use the property underlying the Line and certain adjacent property of MMA as part of the site for construction of a new U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility. GSA will acquire the Line and all MMA property located on the Line, including rail, ties and other track material. Consequently, MMA does not plan to remove or salvage any track or other materials.

Pursuant to the regulations of the STB at 49 CFR 1105, MMA is advising you of this proposed action so that you may assist in determining whether it is consistent with existing land use plans in the county. MMA would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment and receipt of any comments that you may wish to provide. Please provide a written response so that we may forward it to the STB.

Thank you very much for your prompt response to this letter. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me.

Very truly yours,


James E. Howard

James E. Howard

Attorney at Law

1 Thompson Square
Suite 201
Charlestown, MA 02129
www.jehowardlaw.com

tel 617.886.9322
fax 617.886.9324
cell 617.905.6083
jim@jehowardlaw.com

November 7, 2010

Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 3
Bangor, ME 04473

Re: STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2X)
Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd.--
Abandonment Exemption--In Aroostook County, Maine

Dear Sir/Madam:

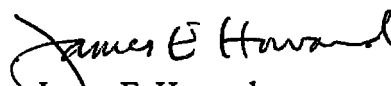
I represent Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. ("MMA"). MMA plans to file a Petition for Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") on or about December 8, 2010 requesting authority to abandon approximately .4 miles of rail line in Van Buren, Maine between milepost V 23.72 (Bridge Street) and milepost V 24.12 (Main Street), which is part of the Van Buren Subdivision (the "Line"). A map showing the Line in relation to other rail lines of MMA is enclosed.

After the STB authorizes the abandonment of the Line, MMA intends to sell the Line to the Government Services Administration ("GSA"), which intends to use the property underlying the Line and certain adjacent property of MMA as part of the site for construction of a new U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility. GSA will acquire the Line and all MMA property located on the Line, including rail, ties and other track material. Consequently, MMA does not plan to remove or salvage any track or other materials.

Pursuant to the regulations of the STB at 49 CFR 1105, MMA is advising you of this proposed action so that you may assist in determining whether it would have an effect on any prime agricultural land. MMA would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment and receipt of any comments that you may wish to provide. Please provide a written response so that we may forward it to the STB.

Thank you very much for your prompt response to this letter. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me.

Very truly yours,


James E. Howard



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Maine Field Office – Ecological Services
17 Godfrey Drive, Suite #2
Orono, ME 04473
(207) 866-3344 Fax: (207) 866-3351

FWS/Region 5/ES/MEFO

November 29, 2010

James E. Howard
1 Thompson Square
Suite 201
Charleston, MA 02129

Dear Mr. Howard:

Thank you for your letter dated November 7, 2010, requesting information or recommendations from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). This letter provides the Service's response pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d, 54 Stat. 250), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661-667d).

Project Name/Location: Van Buren MM&A Railway abandonment

Log Number: 53411-2011-SL-0057

Federally Listed Species

Canada lynx

This project occurs within the range of the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) in Maine, a federally-threatened species under the jurisdiction of the Service. The project is not within the designated critical habitat for the Canada lynx. This designation under the ESA becomes effective on March 27, 2009 (74 FR 8616; February 25, 2009).

Canada lynx occur throughout northern Maine and could occur within your project area. Canada lynx in Maine prefer to use regenerating spruce-fir habitats having high stem densities. These regenerating stands support high populations of snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*), the primary food of the Canada lynx. Highest hare densities are generally present about 12 to 30 years after clearcutting or heavy partial harvesting. Forest practices that diminish habitat quality for snowshoe hares may have an adverse affect on Canada lynx. We have developed *Canada lynx habitat management guidelines for Maine*. Please email (mark_mccollough@fws.gov) or call (207 866-3344 x115) if you are interested in obtaining a copy.

Based on the information currently available to us, no other federally-listed species under the jurisdiction of the Service are known to occur in the project area.

Please note that under Section 7 of the ESA, it is the federal action agency's responsibility to determine if a project may affect a federally listed species. For example, if the project receives federal funding or needs a federal permit, those actions may provide a "nexus" for Section 7 consultation under the ESA¹. If the federal action agency determines that a project would have "no effect" on a listed species or critical habitat, they do not need to seek the concurrence of the Service and there is no need for Section 7 consultation. If the federal agency determines that a project "may affect" a listed species or its critical habitat, then consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA should be initiated.

Other Protected Species

Occasional, transient bald eagles may occur in the general project area. The bald eagle was removed from the federal threatened list on August 9, 2007 and is now protected from take under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. "Take" means to pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb. The term "disturb" under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act was recently defined within a final rule published in the Federal Register on June 5, 2007 (72 FR 31332). "Disturb" means to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, 1) injury to an eagle; 2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior; or 3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior.

Further information on bald eagle delisting and their protection can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/baldeagle.htm>.

Please consult with our new national bald eagle guidelines, which can found at <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/issues/BaldEagle/NationalBaldEagleManagementGuidelines.pdf>. These Guidelines are voluntary and were prepared to help landowners, land managers and others meet the intent of the Eagle Act and avoid disturbing bald eagles. If you believe this project will result in taking or disturbing bald or golden eagles, please contact our office for further guidance. We encourage early and frequent consultations to avoid take of eagles.

We have not reviewed this project for state-threatened and endangered wildlife, wildlife species of special concern, and significant wildlife habitats protected under the Maine Natural Resources Protection Act. We recommend that you contact the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:

¹ Section 7 consultation, however, is only necessary when a federal agency takes a *discretionary* action (e.g., an agency has a choice of whether or not to fund or permit a particular project).

Steve Timpano
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
284 State St.
State House Station 41
Augusta, ME 04333-0041
Phone: 207 287-5258

We also recommend that you contact the Maine Natural Areas Program for additional information on state-threatened and endangered plant species, plant species of special concern, and rare natural communities:

Lisa St. Hilaire
Maine Natural Areas Program
Department of Conservation
93 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Phone: 207 287-8046

If you have any questions please call Mark McCollough, endangered species biologist, at (207) 866-3344 x115.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark McCollough". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being more prominent and the last name "McCollough" written in a continuous script.

Mark McCollough
Acting Field Supervisor

Enclosure

James E. Howard

Attorney at Law

1 Thompson Square
Suite 201
Charlestown, MA 02129
www.jehowardlaw.com

tel 617.886.9322
fax 617.886.9324
cell 617.905.6083
jim@jehowardlaw.com

November 7, 2010

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Northeast Region
300 West Gate Center Drive.
Hadley, MA 01035-9589

Re: STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2X)
Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd.--
Abandonment Exemption--In Aroostook County, Maine

Dear Sir/Madam:

I represent Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. ("MMA"). MMA plans to file a Petition for Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") on or about December 8, 2010 requesting authority to abandon approximately .4 miles of rail line in Van Buren, Maine between milepost V 23.72 (Bridge Street) and milepost V 24.12 (Main Street), which is part of the Van Buren Subdivision (the "Line"). A map showing the Line in relation to other rail lines of MMA is enclosed.

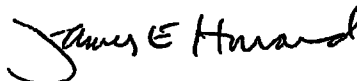
After the STB authorizes the abandonment of the Line, MMA intends to sell the Line to the Government Services Administration ("GSA"), which intends to use the property underlying the Line and certain adjacent property of MMA as part of the site for construction of a new U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility. GSA will acquire the Line and all MMA property located on the Line, including rail, ties and other track material. Consequently, MMA does not plan to remove or salvage any track or other materials.

Pursuant to the regulations of the STB at 49 CFR 1105, MMA is advising you of this proposed action so that you may assist in determining (i) whether this action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species, or areas designated as a critical habitat, and (ii) the effects thereof (if applicable).

MMA would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment and receipt of any comments that you may wish to provide. Please provide a written response so that we may forward it to the STB.

Thank you very much for your prompt response to this letter. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me.

Very truly yours,


James E. Howard

James E. Howard

Attorney at Law

1 Thompson Square
Suite 201
Charlestown, MA 02129
www.jehowardlaw.com

tel 617.886.9322
fax 617.886.9324
cell 617.905.6083

jim@jehowardlaw.com

February 21, 2011

Lisa St. Hilaire
Maine Natural Areas Program
Department of Conservation
93 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0093

Re: STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2)
Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd.
—Abandonment Exemption—
In Aroostook County, Maine

Dear Ms. St. Hilaire:

I represent Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. ("MMA"). MMA plans to file a Petition for Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") on or after March 22, 2011 requesting authority to abandon approximately .4 miles of rail line in Van Buren, Maine between milepost V 23.72 (Bridge Street) and milepost V 24.12 (Main Street), which is part of the Van Buren Subdivision (the "Line"). A map showing the Line in relation to other rail lines of MMA is enclosed.

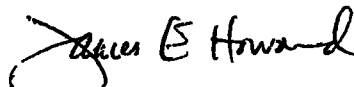
After the STB authorizes the abandonment of the Line, MMA intends to sell the Line to the Government Services Administration ("GSA"), which intends to use the property underlying the Line and certain adjacent property of MMA as part of the site for construction of a new U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility. GSA will acquire the Line and all MMA property located on the Line, including rail, ties and other track material. Consequently, MMA does not plan to remove or salvage any track or other materials.

Pursuant to the regulations of the STB at 49 CFR 1105, MMA advised the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS") by letter dated November 7, 2010 (attached) of this proposed action so that it could assist in determining (i) whether this action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species, or areas designated as a critical habitat, and (ii) the effects thereof (if applicable). In its response dated November 29, 2010 (attached), FWS advised that MMA contact the Maine Natural Areas Program to seek your commentary about any potential impact of this project on any state threatened or endangered plant species, plant species of special concern or rare natural communities.

MMA would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment and receipt of any comments that you may wish to provide. Please provide a written response so that we may forward it to the STB.

Thank you very much for your prompt response to this letter. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me.

Very truly yours,


James E. Howard

James E. Howard

Attorney at Law

1 Thompson Square
Suite 201
Charlestown, MA 02129
www.jehowardlaw.com

tel 617.886.9322
fax 617.886.9324
cell 617.905.6083
jim@jehowardlaw.com

February 21, 2011

Steve Timpano
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
284 State St.
State House Station 41
Augusta, ME 04333-0041

Re: STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2)
Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd.
—Abandonment Exemption—
In Aroostook County, Maine

Dear Mr. Timpano:

I represent Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. ("MMA"). MMA plans to file a Petition for Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") on or after March 22, 2011 requesting authority to abandon approximately .4 miles of rail line in Van Buren, Maine between milepost V 23.72 (Bridge Street) and milepost V 24.12 (Main Street), which is part of the Van Buren Subdivision (the "Line"). A map showing the Line in relation to other rail lines of MMA is enclosed.

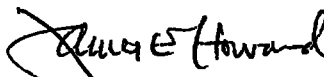
After the STB authorizes the abandonment of the Line, MMA intends to sell the Line to the Government Services Administration ("GSA"), which intends to use the property underlying the Line and certain adjacent property of MMA as part of the site for construction of a new U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility. GSA will acquire the Line and all MMA property located on the Line, including rail, ties and other track material. Consequently, MMA does not plan to remove or salvage any track or other materials.

Pursuant to the regulations of the STB at 49 CFR 1105, MMA advised the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS") by letter dated November 7, 2010 (attached) of this proposed action so that it could assist in determining (i) whether this action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species, or areas designated as a critical habitat, and (ii) the effects thereof (if applicable). In its response dated November 29, 2010 (attached), FWS advised that MMA contact the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to seek your commentary about any potential impact of this project in connection with the Maine Natural Resources Protection Act.

MMA would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment and receipt of any comments that you may wish to provide. Please provide a written response so that we may forward it to the STB.

Thank you very much for your prompt response to this letter. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me.

Very truly yours,



James E. Howard

James E. Howard

Attorney at Law

1 Thompson Square
Suite 201
Charlestown, MA 02129
www.jehowardlaw.com

tel 617.886.9322
fax 617.886.9324
cell 617.905.6083
jim@jehowardlaw.com

November 7, 2010

U.S. National Park Service Northeast Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Re: STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2X)
Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd.--
Abandonment Exemption--In Aroostook County, Maine

Dear Sir/Madam:

I represent Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. ("MMA"). MMA plans to file a Petition for Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") on or about December 8, 2010 requesting authority to abandon approximately .4 miles of rail line in Van Buren, Maine between milepost V 23.72 (Bridge Street) and milepost V 24.12 (Main Street), which is part of the Van Buren Subdivision (the "Line"). A map showing the Line in relation to other rail lines of MMA is enclosed.

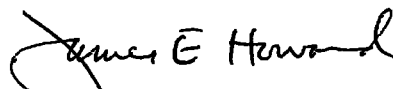
After the STB authorizes the abandonment of the Line, MMA intends to sell the Line to the Government Services Administration ("GSA"), which intends to use the property underlying the Line and certain adjacent property of MMA as part of the site for construction of a new U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility. GSA will acquire the Line and all MMA property located on the Line, including rail, ties and other track material. Consequently, MMA does not plan to remove or salvage any track or other materials.

Pursuant to the regulations of the STB at 49 CFR 1105, MMA is advising you of this proposed action so that you may assist in determining (i) whether this action is likely to affect wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests, and (ii) the effects thereof (if applicable).

MMA would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment and receipt of any comments that you may wish to provide. Please provide a written response so that we may forward it to the STB.

Thank you very much for your prompt response to this letter. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me.

Very truly yours,


James E. Howard

James E. Howard

Attorney at Law

1 Thompson Square
Suite 201
Charlestown, MA 02129
www.jehowardlaw.com

tel 617.886.9322
fax 617.886.9324
cell 617.905.6083
jim@jehowardlaw.com

November 7, 2010

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 1
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100
Boston, MA 02114

Re: STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2X)
Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd.--
Abandonment Exemption--In Aroostook County, Maine

Dear Sir/Madam:

I represent Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. ("MMA"). MMA plans to file a Petition for Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") on or about December 8, 2010 requesting authority to abandon approximately .4 miles of rail line in Van Buren, Maine between milepost V 23.72 (Bridge Street) and milepost V 24.12 (Main Street), which is part of the Van Buren Subdivision (the "Line"). A map showing the Line in relation to other rail lines of MMA is enclosed.

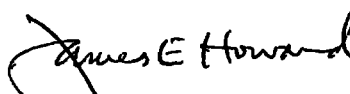
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Pursuant to the regulations of the STB at 49 CFR 1105, MMA is advising you of this proposed action so that you may assist in determining whether this action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. We also seek your assistance in confirming that the proposed action will not require any permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. MMA does not believe such permits will be required.

MMA would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment and receipt of any comments that you may wish to provide. Please provide a written response so that we may forward it to the STB.

Thank you very much for your prompt response to this letter. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me.

Very truly yours,


James E. Howard

James E. Howard

Attorney at Law

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Charlestown, MA 02129
www.jehowardlaw.com

tel 617.886.9322
fax 617.886.9324
cell 617.905.6083
jim@jehowardlaw.com

November 7, 2010

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
State House Section 17
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2X)
Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd.--
Abandonment Exemption--In Aroostook County, Maine

Dear Sir/Madam:

I represent Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. ("MMA"). MMA plans to file a Petition for Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") on or about December 8, 2010 requesting authority to abandon approximately .4 miles of rail line in Van Buren, Maine between milepost V 23.72 (Bridge Street) and milepost V 24.12 (Main Street), which is part of the Van Buren Subdivision (the "Line"). A map showing the Line in relation to other rail lines of MMA is enclosed.

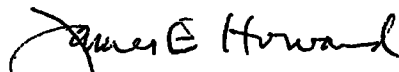
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Pursuant to the regulations of the STB at 49 CFR 1105, MMA is advising you of this proposed action so that you may assist in determining whether this action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. We also seek your assistance in confirming that the proposed action will not require any permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. MMA does not believe such permits will be required.

MMA would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment and receipt of any comments that you may wish to provide. Please provide a written response so that we may forward it to the STB.

Thank you very much for your prompt response to this letter. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me.

Very truly yours,


James E. Howard



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100
BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

December 8, 2010

James E. Howard, Attorney at Law
1 Thompson Square
Suite 201
Charlestown, MA 02129

Re: STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2X)
Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd.--
Abandonment Exemption--In Aroostook County, Maine

Dear Mr. Howard,

This is in regards to your letter of November 7, 2010 to the Region 1 EPA regarding the plans of your client, Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. ("MMA"), to file a Petition for Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") requesting authority to abandon approximately 0.4 miles of rail line in Van Buren, Maine.

Your request is to know whether this action meets applicable water quality standards and whether this action would require any permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME DEP) has been delegated authority to implement the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) in Maine, and, as such, would be the appropriate authority to make the determination whether a Section 402 permit is required. If required and a permit is issued, ME DEP also would make a determination that the Section 402 permit meets the applicable state water quality standards.

With a copy of this letter, I am forwarding to ME DEP a copy of your November 7, 2010 request.

If you have further questions you may contact me at 617-918-1791.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David M. Webster".

David M. Webster, Chief
Industrial Permits Branch

cc: Brian Kavanah, ME DEP

Enclosure

James E. Howard

Attorney at Law

1 Thompson Square
Suite 201
Charlestown, MA 02129
www.jehowardlaw.com

tel 617.886.9322
fax 617.886.9324
cell 617.905.6083
jim@jehowardlaw.com

November 7, 2010

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742

Re: STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2X)
Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd.--
Abandonment Exemption--In Aroostook County, Maine

Dear Sir/Madam:

I represent Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. ("MMA"). MMA plans to file a Petition for Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") on or about December 8, 2010 requesting authority to abandon approximately .4 miles of rail line in Van Buren, Maine between milepost V 23.72 (Bridge Street) and milepost V 24.12 (Main Street), which is part of the Van Buren Subdivision (the "Line"). A map showing the Line in relation to other rail lines of MMA is enclosed.

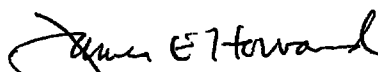
After the STB authorizes the abandonment of the Line, MMA intends to sell the Line to the Government Services Administration ("GSA"), which intends to use the property underlying the Line and certain adjacent property of MMA as part of the site for construction of a new U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility. GSA will acquire the Line and all MMA property located on the Line, including rail, ties and other track material. Consequently, MMA does not plan to remove or salvage any track or other materials.

Pursuant to the regulations of the STB at 49 CFR 1105, MMA is advising you of this proposed action so that you may assist in determining (i) whether any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected and (ii) whether permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act will be required for this proposed action. MMA does not believe such permits will be required.

MMA would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment and receipt of any comments that you may wish to provide. Please provide a written response so that we may forward it to the STB.

Thank you very much for your prompt response to this letter. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me.

Very truly yours,


James E. Howard

James E. Howard

Attorney at Law

1 Thompson Square
Suite 201
Charlestown, MA 02129
www.jehowardlaw.com

tel 617.886.9322
fax 617.886.9324
cell 617.905.6083
jim@jehowardlaw.com

November 7, 2010

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
55 Capitol Street
Station 65
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2X)
Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd.--
Abandonment Exemption--In Aroostook County, Maine

Dear Sir/Madam:

I represent Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. ("MMA"). MMA plans to file a Petition for Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") on or about December 8, 2010 requesting authority to abandon approximately .4 miles of rail line in Van Buren, Maine between milepost V 23.72 (Bridge Street) and milepost V 24.12 (Main Street), which is part of the Van Buren Subdivision (the "Line"). A map showing the Line in relation to other rail lines of MMA is enclosed.

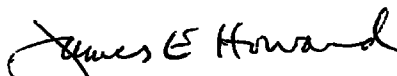
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Pursuant to the regulations of the STB at 49 CFR 1105, MMA is advising you of this proposed action so that you may assist in determining (i) whether the Line meets the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and (ii) whether there is a likelihood of archeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties in the area of the Line.

MMA would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment and receipt of any comments that you may wish to provide. Please provide a written response so that we may forward it to the STB.

Thank you very much for your prompt response to this letter. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me.

Very truly yours,


James E. Howard



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
55 CAPITOL STREET
65 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

EARLE G. SHETTLEWORTH, JR.
DIRECTOR

December 6, 2010

Mr. James E. Howard
1 Thompson Square, Suite 201
Charlestown, MA 02129

Project: MHPC# 0199-10- STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2X); Montreal, Maine
& Atlantic Railway, Ltd.; abandonment exemption in Aroostook Co.
Town: Penobscot and Aroostook County, ME

Dear Mr. Howard:

In response to your recent request, our office has reviewed the information received November 12, 2010 to continue consultation on the above referenced undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

Regarding architectural resources, architectural survey is required in order to identify and record information on all resources within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) that are 50 years old or older. The APE for architectural resources must be clearly outlined on a USGS topographical map in consultation with our office. Survey must be completed according to our "Revised Above Ground Cultural Resource Survey Manual Project Review Specific." All surveys must now be submitted electronically via our new on-line CARMA database. See http://www.maine.gov/mhpc/architectural_survey/survey_guidelines.html for more information. Please contact Christi Mitchell, our survey coordinator, at 287-1453 or christi.mitchell@maine.gov to schedule an appointment to review our files.

Regarding conducting architectural survey, a list of historic preservation consultants is enclosed for your information and use. Our office encourages you to utilize consultants who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards (36 CFR Part 61, Appendix A), and who have a thorough understanding of the survey process and the National Register of Historic Places Criteria for eligibility. Generally these are architectural historians, but there are also professional standards for historians, architects and historic architects. While there certainly is some cross over between the categories, it is important to realize that having a broad and detailed knowledge of architectural styles, as represented in Maine, is crucial to completing a successful project efficiently. If you have questions about whether a particular firm has conducted survey for our office, please contact our survey coordinator, Ms. Mitchell.

In addition, a finding of effects must be made for historic properties that are identified.

We look forward to continuing consultation with you on this project. Please contact Robin Stancampiano of our staff if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kirk F. Mohney
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

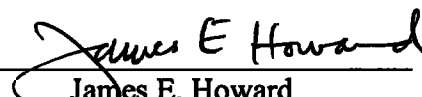
enc.



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned counsel for Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. ("MMA") hereby certifies that (1) a copy of the foregoing Combined Environmental and Historic Report (the "Report") in Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2) is being served by first-class United States mail, postage prepaid, as of the 24th day of February, 2011 on the parties listed in Exhibit 1 attached hereto, which include agencies with which MMA consulted in preparation of the Report, (2) service of the Report was accompanied by a transmittal letter in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 2, and (3) the Report is being served at least 20 days prior to the filing of a Petition for Exemption for authority to abandon the line described in the Report.


James E. Howard

Dated: February 23, 2011

Exhibit 1

Maine State Planning Office
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 3
Bangor, ME 04473

U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Maine Field Office – Ecological Services
17 Godfrey Drive, Suite #2
Orono, ME 04473

U.S. National Park Service Northeast
Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Maine Department of Environmental
Protection
State House Section 17
Augusta, ME 04333

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New
England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
55 Capitol Street
Station 65
Augusta, ME 04333

Lisa St. Hilaire
Maine Natural Areas Program
Department of Conservation
93 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0093

Steve Timpano
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and
Wildlife
284 State St.
State House Station 41
Augusta, ME 04333-0041

Douglas F. Beaulieu
County Administrator
County of Aroostook
County Commissioners' Office
144 Sweden Street, Suite 1
Caribou, Maine 04736

U.S. National Geodetic Survey
NGS Information Services, NOAA,
N/NGS12
National Geodetic Survey SSMC-3, #9202
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

Exhibit 2

Re: STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2)
Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd.
--Abandonment Exemption--
In Aroostook County, Maine

Dear Sir/Madam:

I represent Montréal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. ("MMA"). MMA plans to file a Petition for Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") on or after March 22, 2011 seeking authority to abandon approximately .4 miles of rail line in Van Buren, Maine between milepost V 23.72 (Bridge Street) and milepost V 24.12 (Main Street), which is part of the Van Buren Subdivision (the "Line"). Attached is a Combined Environmental and Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the STB's environmental review process, please contact the Section of Environmental Analysis ("SEA"), Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20423, (202) 245-0245, and refer to the matter described above.

Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to SEA (with a copy to the undersigned) would be appreciated within 3 weeks. Your comments will be considered by the STB in evaluating the environmental and historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action.

If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact the undersigned at (617) 886-9322 or by mail at the above address.

Very truly yours,

James E. Howard